

Additionally, the "one family, one judge" requirement will allow Family Court judges to handle cases from intake through final disposition. They will then have a full history of the child's family dynamics to help them make better informed decisions regarding the safety and the welfare of the child.

H.R. 2657 mandates the immediate return of all family law cases to the Family Court. The court must eliminate the backlog and manage cases within the time frame established by the adoption of the Safe Families Act. To facilitate case management, the bill directs the court to integrate its computer system so that judges, magistrate judges, and nonjudicial personnel will have access to all pending cases related to a child and his or her family. The bill requires the D.C. government to integrate the computer systems with those of the Superior Court to improve communication in the sharing of information about families served by the court.

In addition to the training requirement for judges, it is important that they are well informed about critical social services available to the children and the families they serve. By requiring a social services liaison and representatives from D.C. agencies to be on site, our bill gives judges the tools to help children and families access much-needed programs and services.

I would like to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA), and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) for their leadership and dedication on this issue.

H.R. 2657 mandates critical and long overdue reforms to the current family division of the D.C. Superior Court, and I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) for all of the work that went into this bill in collaboration with the others.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE), co-chair of the Children's Caucus.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2657 and add my deep appreciation to the distinguished gentlewoman from the District of Columbia and for her ability to work across party lines, and to my colleague from Texas, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the majority whip, who has shown, as has the representative from the District of Columbia, a deep and abiding caring for the children of this Nation and of this community, and to the gentlewoman from

Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA), whose task and commitment in this process were necessary to see this legislation move forward.

My reason for wanting to add my comments is to say to Brianna Blackmond that we have not forgotten her, and to be able to say that this legislation brings honor to lawyers who practice in family courts and to the discipline of family law and family courts. This system now will develop in the District of Columbia judges who will have long-lasting expertise and commitment to the issues dealing with families, and a D.C. bar that is further enhanced because their focus is on the family court system and families. That will help put a dent in the tragedy of 180 of the District of Columbia's children from 1993 to 2000 that died after the families came to the attention of the District's Child and Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, the important aspect of this is that they came to the attention of that agency, but the connection was lost so those children may have been placed back in homes or back in foster care that was not good for them and resulted in their death.

Obviously we know that abused children result in juvenile delinquents and incarcerated adults. With a family court tracking the system of many of our States, we will have a professional court that deals specifically with these issues. This has been a tumultuous time. We have seen in the last week the trauma on families and the trauma on children across the Nation who may have lost their parents during the tragedies of September 11.

We are making a commitment today to provide another vehicle to nurture our children and protect them, as we will do throughout these days for children who suffered through September 11, 2001.

I applaud the proponents of this legislation. I believe this will make the family court in the District of Columbia a very prominent example of how we can save lives and track families and how we can intervene appropriately in order to provide the most nurturing and supportive system for our children.

Mr. Speaker, I add my applause for those who have supported and will help pass this legislation.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I reiterate this is a terrific bill. It is a gleam of light in a very difficult time. I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) for his leadership and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS). I thank my colleagues who spoke, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE), the gentleman

from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT), and all of the people who will be voting for this bill. Indeed, it could not happen if we did not have great staff.

Mr. Speaker, I reiterate the names of some of the staff: Casie Bevan, Russell Smith, Heea Vazirani-Fales, John Bouker, Victoria Proctor, Melissa Wogciak, and all of the others who have toiled to bring this about. I urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 2657, a bill that will be beneficial to the most vulnerable children of the District of Columbia and their families and strengthen our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2657.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2779

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 2779.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia?

There was no objection.

#### JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION ACT OF 2001

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1900) to amend the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 to provide quality prevention programs and accountability programs relating to juvenile delinquency; and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1900

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 2001".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings.
- Sec. 3. Purpose.
- Sec. 4. Definitions.